

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: TRADE WITH CUBA

REF MADRID 04 DATED JAN 14, 1975

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

SUMMARY. AN ARTICLE IN THE MARCH 11 EDITION OF A LOCAL NEWSPAPER DESCRIBED SHIPMENTS OF PINGEON CRANES, PEGASO TRUCKS, AND A "SIGNIFICANT LOT" OF FIRESTMNE TIRES BY SOCIEDAD PEREZ Y COMPANIA TO CUBA. THE FOLLOWING DATA ON THE SHIPMENT, INCLUDING BACKGROUND PROVIDED BY FIRESTONE CONCERNING THEIR PARTICIPATION, ARE SUBMITTED FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION IN THE EVENT OF A POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE OR TREASURY REGULATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. AN ARTICLE IN THE MAR 11, EL CORREO ESPANOL DESCRIBED THE LOADING OF EQUIPMENT ON THE SHIP GOD HULSMAN, A GREEK FLAG VESSEL. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, THE SHIPMENT BY SOCIEDAD PEREZ Y COMPANIA, CONSISTING OF 4 PINGEON CRANES AND 25 PEGASO TRUCKS DESTINED FOR THE CUBAN FIRM TRANS IMPORT, WAS NUMBER SIX WITHIN A REGULAR ESTABLISHED WITH CUBA. LIKEWISE,
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ANOTHER SHIPMENT CONSISTING OF 22 PEGASO TRUCKS, 600 TONS OF

METALIC SILO INSTALLATION MATERIAL, AND A SIGNIFICANT LOT OF
FIRESTONE TIRES, WAS CONSIGNED BY THE SAME BILBAO COMPANY.
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2. ALTHOUGH THE FIRESTONE TIRE AND RUBBER COMPANY OF AKRON,
OHIO OWNS ONLY 26.5 PERCENT OF THE LOCAL MANUFACTURER OF THE TIRES,
FIRESTONE-HISPANIA S.A., FIRESTONE TECHNOLOGY IS INVOLVED IN THEIR
MANUFACTURE. A COMPANY MANAGEMENT REP DESCRIBED THE
BACKGROUND OF FIRESTONE'S PARTICIPATION IN TRADE WITH CUBA. THE
COMPANY HAD FOR SOME TIME BEEN REPEATEDLY ADVISED BY THE PRESIDENT
OF FIRESTONE TIRE AND RUBBER NOT TO SUPPLY TIRES TO CUBA. AFTER
MANY YEARS OF REJECTING ALL REQUESTS FOR EXPORTS OF ANY PRODUCTS
TO CUBA, FIRESTONE, WHICH IS UNDER CONTRACT TO SUPPLY TIRES FOR
LOCALLY MANUFACTURED TRUCKS AND FARM TRAILERS (USED IN SUGAR
CANE HARVESTING), WAS PRESSURED BY THE SPANISH GOVT TO SUPPLY
REPLACEMENT TIRES. THE FIRST OF SUCH SHIPMENTS OF REPLACEMENT
TIRES FOR SPANISH EQUIPMENT WAS SENT IN NOV OF 1973, AFTER AKRON
GAVE AUTHORIZATION UPON BEING ADVISED THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE.
FIRESTONE ASSURED THAT ALL SUCH SHIPMENTS CONSISTED EXCLUSIVELY
OF REPLACEMENT TIRES FOR SPANISH EQUIPMENT.

3. FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS FIRESTONE TIRE AND RUBBER HAS BEEN
REPRESENTED AT THE BILBAO PLANT BY A U.S. CITIZEN TECHNICAL AND
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR BUT HAS NO PARTICIPATION IN THE
MANAGEMENT OF ITS AFFILIATE.

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